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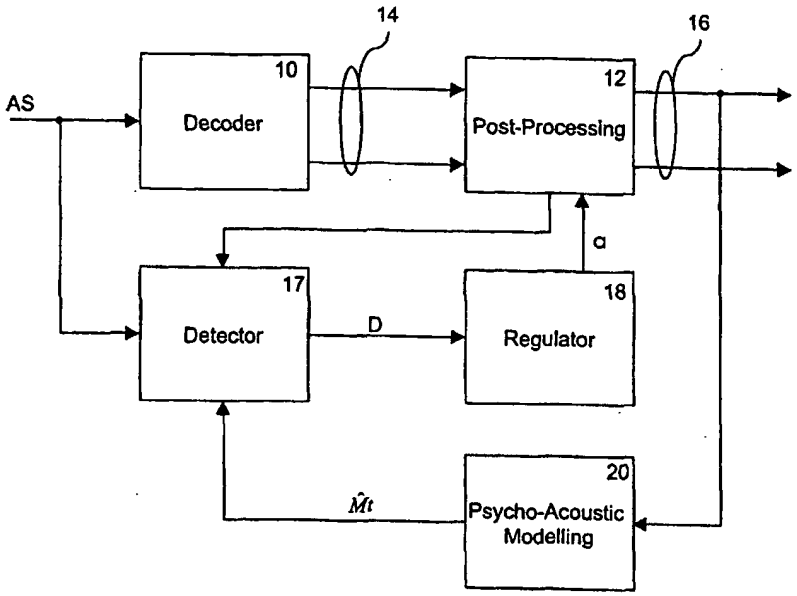
[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: AUDIO PROCESSING



(57) Abstract: An audio system comprises a post-processor (12) arranged to alter successive fragments of a decoded audio signal (14) to provide successive fragments of post-processed audio signal (16). A masking threshold generator (20) provides an estimate of a masking threshold () for successive fragments of post-processed audio signal (16). A noise level generator (17) provides an estimate of a noise level () for successive fragments of the post-processed audio signal (16). A distortion generator (17) determines a degree (D) to which the noise level exceeds the masking threshold for successive fragments of the post-processed audio signal (16). A regulator (18) controls the post-processor according to the degree to which the noise levels exceed the masking threshold.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H04S1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 H04S H04B G10L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 95 02929 A (DOLBY LAB LICENSING CORP) 26 January 1995 (1995-01-26) page 1, line 6-10 page 6, line 9 -page 7, line 14 page 10, line 29 -page 11, line 13 page 11, line 24 -page 12, line 13 page 14, line 2 -page 28, line 8 page 31, line 26 -page 33, line 8 ---	1-10
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A	abstract --- -/--	7-9

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Zanti, P

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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